

Message Text

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16

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 NSCE-00 SAJ-01

SAM-01 SAB-01 /094 W

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R 031155Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2308

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 0614

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, PINS, PINT, CE, KN

SUBJ: REPAIRING RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA

1. LEAD ARTICLE IN MARCH 3 CEYLON DAILY MIRROR (WHICH HAS CLOSE GOVERNMENT CONNECTIONS) AND SMALLER ITEM IN GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED CEYLON DAILY NEWS REPORT DEPARTURE OF PRIME MINISTER'S SON, ANURA BANDARANAIKE, AND PARTY OF THREE FOR NORTH KOREA FOR "UNOFFICIAL TALKS". PRESS REPORTS SAY ANURA EXPECTS, IN DISCUSSIONS WITH KIM IL SUNG AND OTHER OFFICIALS, TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF NORMALIZING GSL-DPRK RELATIONS. ALL MEMBERS OF NORTH KOREAN EMBASSY WERE EXPELLED ON APRIL 15, 1971, APPARENTLY ON SUSPICION OF BEING INVOLVED IN INSURGENCY WHICH BROKE OUT ON APRIL 5, 1971.

2. ROLE OF DPRK EMBASSY IN INSURGENCY HAS NEVER BEEN DEFINED BY GSL, BUT PRIME MINISTER HAS SAID THAT RETURN OF DPRK DIPLOMATS TO COLOMBO WOULD HAVE TO FOLLOW CONCLUSION OF TRIAL OF 1971 INSURGENT

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LEADERS (WHICH ENDED IN DECEMBER 1974) AND EXPLANATION

OF MONETARY TRANSACTIONS BY DPRK EMBASSY BEFORE OUTBREAK OF 1971 INSURGENCY. SECOND CONDITION HAS NEVER BEEN STATED PUBLICLY, AS FIRST CONDITION WAS, AND MAY THEREFORE BENEGOTIABLE. JULY 1974 DPRK TRADE MISSION TO COLOMBO PRODUCED LITTLE BESIDES DPRK COMMITMENT TO REPAY PORTION OF PAST DEBTS.

3. COMMENT: TENTATIVE MOVES NOW TO RESTORE TIES MAY REFLECT GSL DESIRE TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES BEFORE NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT SCHEDULED COLOMBO IN SEPTEMBER 1976, AS WELL AS PRESSURE FROM COMMUNIST COUNTRIES SUPPORTED BY LEFT-WING ELEMENTS IN GSL COALITION. ANURA WAS QUOTED BY DAILY MIRROR AS SAYING VISIT "DEMONSTRATES THE FLEXIBILITY OF UFGJS FOREIGN POLICY". CHOICE OF ANURA MAY BE EQUALLY SIGNIFICANT AS PROVIDING HIM SENSITIVE ROLE IN CONDUCT OF GSL'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS. ASSIGNMENT DEMONSTRATES PRIME MINISTER'S CONFIDENCE IN HIM AND MAY ALSO BE MEANT TO BALANCE HIS MORE ANTI-LEFT IMAGE OF RECENT MONTHS. PRIME MINISTER'S SON-IN-LAW, A PERSON WHO MAINTAINS CONTACT, ON BEHALF OF MRS. BANDARANAIKE, WITH MORE RADICAL LEFTIST ELEMENTS, BOTH INTERNALLY AND EXTERNALLY.
VAN HOLLEN

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NNN

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